

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, and 17-32 have been canceled. Claim 12, and amended claims 5 and 16 are in this application.

Claims 5 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,457) in view of Ruzicka (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,876), Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,589,718), Siems et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,470,253), Glover (U.S. Patent No. 3,824,524) and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) of Figs. 12-14.

Amended independent claim 5 recites in part the following:

"A multi-channel audio system comprising:

an electronic apparatus having a back panel with at least four audio signal output terminals for a plurality of channels, said at least four audio signal output terminals including a plurality of audio signal output terminals for right channels and a plurality of audio signal output terminals for left channels, said back panel being located on a rear portion of the electronic apparatus;

. . . .

all of the audio signal output terminals corresponding to the left channels are arranged to the right of all of the audio signal output terminals corresponding to the right channels as viewed from the rear portion of the electronic apparatus and signal output terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged on top of the signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels or signal output terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged below signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels, said plurality of speakers being arranged corresponding to said plurality of channels," (Emphasis added.)

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 5 is distinguishable from the applied combination of references for at least the reason herein below described.

That is, the Examiner appears to assert that AAPA and, in particular, Figs. 12-14 of the present application, discloses the arrangement of the output terminals when viewed from the rear portion of the electronic apparatus. However, it is respectfully submitted that such portions of AAPA do not disclose the specific arrangement set forth in amended claim 5, that is, "all of the audio signal output terminals corresponding to the left channels are arranged to the right of all of the audio signal output terminals corresponding to the right channels as viewed from the rear portion of the electronic apparatus." (Emphasis added.)

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 5 is distinguishable from the applied combination of references. For similar or somewhat similar reasons, it is also believed that amended claim 16 is distinguishable from the applied combination of references.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee ('718), Siems, Glover, and AAPA, and further in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,984,717).

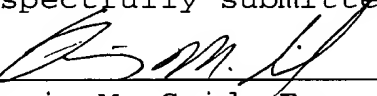
Claim 12 is dependent from independent claim 5. Accordingly, claim 12 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee ('718), Siems, Glover, and AAPA for at least the reason previously described. The Examiner does not appear to have relied on Lee '717 to overcome the deficiencies of the applied combination of Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee ('718), Siems, Glover, and AAPA. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 12 is distinguishable from the applied combination of references.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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